

VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 7th, 2025

Present: Sally Cashin, Amy Forecki, Katie Forecki, Kristin Lehmkuhl, Steve Steen, Nicci Sternitzky, Pat Westen

Guest: James Lange

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:32 pm.
2. Minutes: No change in December minutes.
3. Treasurer report: year to date totals of expenses, donations, upcoming debts, and sales shared.
4. Bird City WI: Next meeting is Jan 19th at 10am in the ParkView Room.
5. Bee City USA: draft of 8-page IPM plan has been made and shared via Google documents. Gathering thoughts and input prior to presenting to village for their consideration. Bee City renewal is due on February 28th. Neonic lecture on Mar 18th. Elm Grove is one of only 8 communities in WI that is a Bee City.
6. Book Club: Only one more wine and cheese book club events remaining this year— February 18th 2026 (Owls of the Eastern Ice by Jonathan Slaughter). Will have SignUp Genius for RSVP.
7. Invasive Species Task Force: Will hold ISTF banquet as thank you for all volunteers on January 18th at 11am in O'Neill Room—snacks and drinks provided along with a slideshow of photos for the year. There were a total of 462 volunteer hours in 2025. Kristin brought gifts for volunteers to share with everyone! Will send RSVP for event again.
8. Winter Lecture Series: Will have 2 remaining WLS events—Jan 21 '26, and March 18 '26. For movie night—encouraging attendees to bring cup and bowl. Will buy popcorn and have water and sodas available.
9. Veteran's Park Revitalization Plan: Seeding will occur this Saturday, Jan 10th—will send final time on Friday once weather more set. A total of 43 varieties of seeds collected and purchased.
10. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: Completed pledge (due 12/1) and were able to achieve 20 of the 29 actions making us the top earner in the state. Only 8 Monarch Champions in the entire US in 2025—a goal of ours for 2026. Only a total of 4 Leadership Circle in the state and 4 signatories.
11. Adopt Your Drain: currently have 63 of the 190 drains within the village adopted or 33.1%. With one aim of our committee to support clean waterways, looking for ideas to engage with more residents to adopt a drain. SweetWater will be at the Winter Salt Week Open House on Jan 31st from 1-3pm in hopes of engaging with more residents.
12. Adopt-a-River: We officially now have the portion of Underwood Creek as it winds through the park. Will partake in the Clean Up on the official MRK day (Saturday, April 25th)—likely at 11am.
13. Spring Plant Sales: Will hold the weekend of May 15th—spring ephemeral, perennial, and shrub sale all together. Community Room is reserved for indoor location and possibility of 2-day sale with exclusivity for Elm Grove residents. Discussed publicity and signs for the sale. Need to assure carts from supplier will fit into the elevators. Pat reminded us to assure enough shade tolerant plants. Have ordered 800 native shrubs (50 each of 16 varieties of native shrubs)
14. Urban Deer Management: Reviewed DNR Grant, awaiting to hear whether or not we got it.
15. Mission/Vision Statement: discussed looking over to revise since hasn't been updated since April 2020.
16. High Interest Day for Tonawanda: Scheduled for April 24th. Steve agreed to help out; Amy with a slew of amazing ideas. Will get more information from Megan Rueter on what is available, where we will be. Will see if we can provide a milkweed plant or seeds for each student.

17. Winter Salt Week Open House: planned for Jan 31st from 1-3pm with SweetWater, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, MMSD, Fresh Coast Guardians, and SEWRPC. Will have preliminary data from continuous logger presented and presentation on how to make brine.
18. Elm Grove Summer Camp: we were given the OK to help develop a “Monarch Madness” week for the Rec department summer camp! Amy will obviously help take the lead on this—will get a bit more information from Isabella and then start planning!
19. DATCP Pesticide Registry: annual enrollment required; open enrollment until 2/1/26.
20. Next meeting: scheduled for February 4th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
21. Adjournment: 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson